

S12127

LENA RICHARD GUILD

SCRAPBOOK 1923 - 1967 VOL. 2

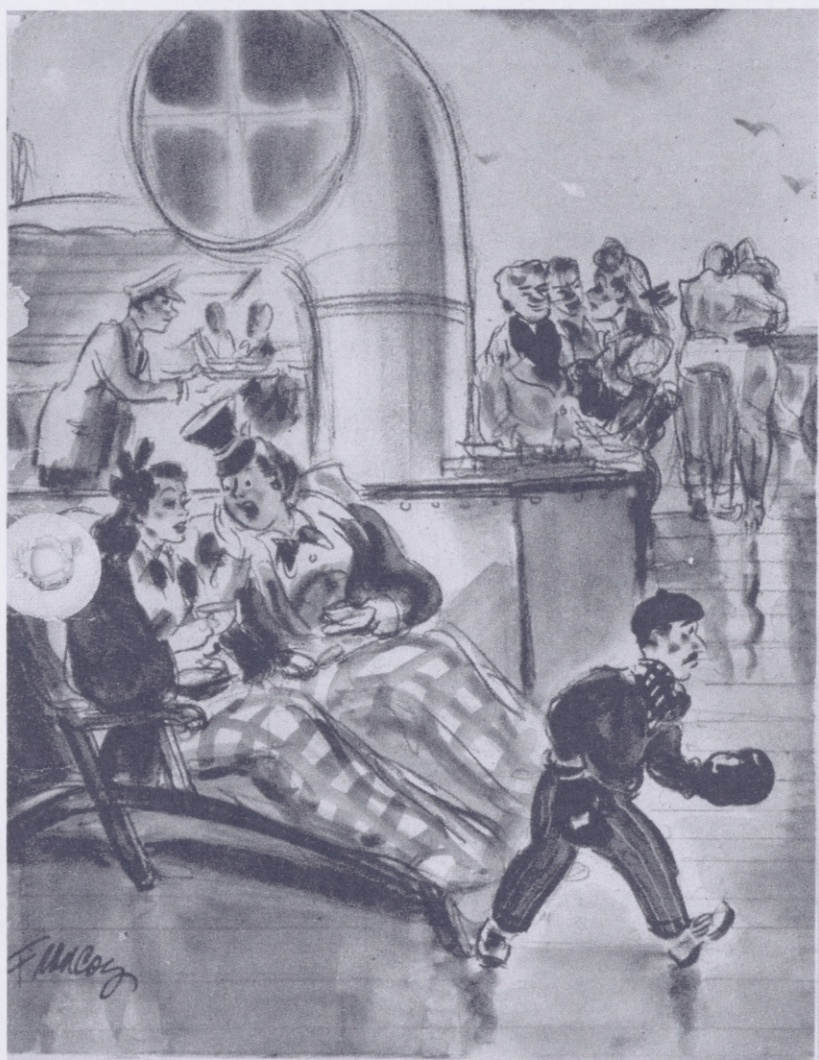
S12127

Lena Richard Guild

SCRAPBOOK

1923 – 1967

VOL. 2



"As I understand it, he's very touchy about his size."

1942

Dorchester Midget Weds



Took Vows

Joseph M. White, 23 (left) of Dorchester, Mass., embraces his bride, 24-year-old Dorothy Anderson of Kenosha, Wis., in ceremony performed there yesterday by the Rev. North East West (center). Attendants were Miss Caroline Granger, 32, of Cleveland and Harvey Williams, 42, of Minneapolis. White, a member of a carnival troupe, met the bride four months ago. He is 49 inches tall.

On a souvent besoin d'un plus petit que soi



MARCEL GAUTHIER, qui mesure 3 pieds et 9 pouces, est l'un des souscripteurs les plus assidus des usines Canadair de Cartierville, pour la reconversion. Il vient de battre son propre record en tant pour \$650 d'obligations d'épargne du Canada. Son achat au cours des emprunts de guerre était de \$600. On le voit ici, à droite, monté sur une chaise, remettant sa formule à M. VAILLANCOURT, organisateur de la vente des obligations à Cartierville, en présence de M. O. MATHIEU, organisateur-assistant. Gauthier rêve de se bâtir un jour une maisonnette à son échelle dans sa ville natale de Cornwall et d'y établir un commerce avec sa sœur aînée, qui mesure 3 pieds et demi. Le personnel de l'aviation, qui compte 7,000 employés, a souscrit plus de 10,000 jusqu'ici.

1943



To Lena:-
Kindest wishes
from
Moore & Bergh

1993



1943



So proud
will
Best wishes
Philip Hawker

Channing
Hawker
W.S.

1943

D. Hawker

G. Naulon K.C.

Height 4' 1"

Height 6' 9" (as he says.)

Weight 113 lbs.

Weight unknown.

Age. 24.

Profession - Lawyer

Colour of eyes Hazel

Complexion fair

Place of Birth - Hermitage, Newfoundland.

Nationality - British

Marital Status - single.

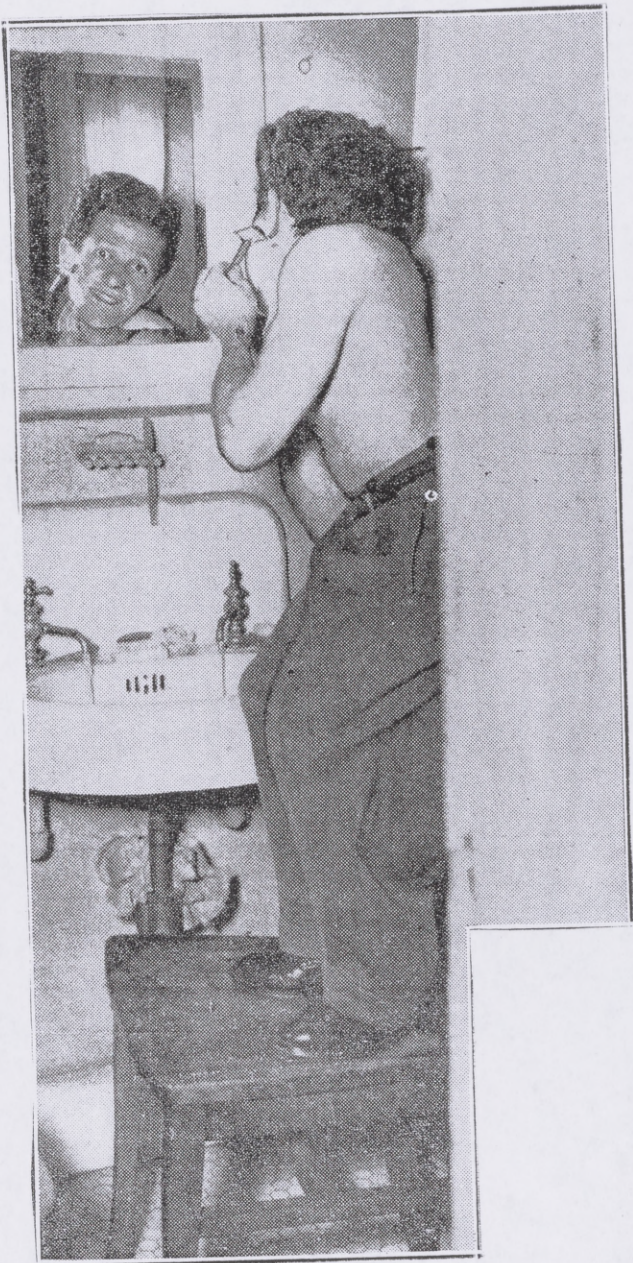
Degree B.Sc. (geology)

Residence - St George, N.B. Canada.

(Just like a Pass port)

1943

110



CALLLED IN ERROR

To err is human, and even draft boards are human—all of which adds up to this: Rocky Carr, all three and a half feet of him, received a notice to report for his draft physical last week. Rocky, [▲] who is 26 years years old and lives at 724 Astor Ave., the Bronx, got up at 5 A. M. to shave for trip to his board. Rocky's too short to reach the mirror, but that's what chairs are for . . . sometimes.



BREAKFAST

Rocky receives son java from gran father, Nick Sammatano, 85, before heading for local board.

12-52-70

19 43



OBLIVIOUS of the attention of his companions, Rocky Carr still waiting—ah, but patiently—is joined by more draftees in vigil, outside of Local Board 104. Board opined that three-and-a-half-foot Carr was summoned through error.



(All NEWS fotos)
FOILED. Disconsolate, forlorn Rocky Carr sits on steps following his rejection, and ponders the futility of it all.



NONCHALANTLY awaiting his turn at draft board No. 104, 3½ foot Rocky Carr peruses newspaper to pass time.

1943

Los Ange



ROMANCE—Augustin J. Resmondo and Hazel I. Derthick, midgets, as they applied for marriage license.
Times photo

Midgets, Each Measuring 4 Feet 2 Inches, Will Wed

Veterans of Show Business Will Take Their
Vows at Lawndale Church in June 19 Ceremony

Just two "little people" sharing
a big love—

That was how Augustin J. Resmondo, 37, and Hazel I. Derthick, 36, described themselves yesterday as they peered, tiptoe, over the counter at the Marriage License Bureau to make application for one of its documents.

The two midgets, each 4 feet 2 inches in height, plan to marry June 19 at the Christian Church of Lawndale. All in the bridal party except the minister will be "little people."

Miss Derthick is a veteran vaudeville and motion picture performer, Resmondo recently

forsook the show business in a patriotic gesture and became a timekeeper in the aircraft industry.

"And we don't manufacture miniature aircraft, either," he quipped.

They first met 18 months ago while performing at a relief benefit.



TAKE BIG STEP—Eugene R. Brown and his bride, the former Loretta Hickman, both of Columbus, O., pictured after their wedding in Columbus. Eugene is four feet, five inches tall. His bride is four feet, three inches tall. They'll honeymoon in New York State.

(AP Wirephoto)

1944

On a souvent besoin d'un plus petit que soi



M. MARCEL GAUTHIER, qui mesure 3 pieds et 9 pouces, est l'un des souscripteurs les plus assidus des usines Canadair de Cartierville, division de la reconversion. Il vient de battre son propre record en achetant pour \$650 d'obligations d'épargne du Canada. Son achat le plus élevé au cours des emprunts de guerre était de \$600. On le voit ici, à droite, monté sur une chaise, remettant sa formule à M. A.-E. VAILLANCOURT, organisateur de la vente des obligations à Canadair, en présence de M. O. MATHIEU, organisateur-assistant. M. Gauthier rêve de se bâtir un jour une maisonnette à son échelle dans sa ville natale de Cornwall et d'y établir un commerce avec l'aide de sa sœur aînée, qui mesure 3 pieds et demi. Le personnel de l'avionnerie, qui compte 7,000 employés, a souscrit plus de \$1,200,000 jusqu'ici.

1944



Henri et Roma
 et moi-même
 Tous au parc de
 Châteauguay le parc.
 Romand

31

1946



Lena Richard 1948



Unknown 1948



MIDGETS have occurred in three generations of Swensen and Clifton families of Austin, Texas. Midget couple Clarence and Myrna Swensen (*front row, right*) have an

8-month-old midget daughter. Myrna's parents, John and Winifred Clifton (*back row, right*), are midgets, but Clarence's parents, August and Cora Swensen (*back row, left*),

are not. Four other children of elder Swensens are normal. All of these midgets have been caused by mutations in the ancestry of the Cliftons and the elder Swensen.

1946

Doehla Chorus In First Singout

Doehla chorus made its first public appearance at Samoset Assn. hall, Leominster, last night. The mixed chorus of 50 voices was under the direction of Philip S. Wright.

Selections sung by the chorus included "Let The Rest Of The World Go By," "All Through The Night," and "Home On The Range."

Members of the chorus also provided a variety program. Miss Lena Richard presented a Mexican hat dance and Hawaiian number; Burleigh R. Anderson, magic tricks; and Merle E. Stepton, Susan A. Rossetti, John Cook and Michael C. Emma, comedy acts.

Industry's Amateurs Score Rotary Show Hit



Doehla Art Publishing Company presented its all-girl chorus at the Rotary Industrial Show. Girls sang several modern songs in harmony.

1948

LYRIC

STARTS TODAY
THRU SUNDAY!

40
TINY TALENTED
PEOPLE

THE GREATEST AGGREGATION OF MIDGET ENTERTAINERS EVER ASSEMBLED IN ONE GIGANTIC, GAY AND GORGEOUS STAGE REVUE... ACCLAIMED THE PERFECT SHOW FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY.

See-

"THE PENGUINS ON PARADE"
"THE SOUTH AMERICAN"
"A DAY AT THE CIRCUS"
"THE STREAMLINED MINISTERS ON PARADE"
"TINYTOWN CADETS ON REVIEW"
"THE SMALLEST STRONG MAN"
"THE TINIEST ELEPHANT TRAINER ON EARTH"
AND MANY OTHER GLAMOROUS SCENES!

Continuous
Performance
2 to 11 P. M.

STAGE SHOWS
2.45 — 5.45
9.45

ON OUR STAGE
IN PERSON!
WORLD FAMOUS
**SINGER'S
MIDGETS**

3
DAYS
ONLY

THRILL AFTER THRILL!
SPECTACLE AFTER
SPECTACLE!

ON OUR SCREEN!

PAT O'BRIEN
JAMES CAGNEY
"ANGELS WITH
DIRTY FACES"

Stage Feature At Lyric



The world famous troupe of Singer's midgets, pictured above, today opened a three-day engagement on the stage of the Lyric theater. The troupe of little players presents a colorful and spectacular musical revue



Frieda Betsky (right) relaxes with other "little ladies"

Little People

Midgets live in a king-size world which has only two dimensions: big and little

WHEN FRIEDA BETSKY WAS A CHILD doctors said she was going to stay tiny the rest of her life. "I felt bad about it," recalls Frieda, now a dark-haired 45-inch-high trouser playing with Singer's Midgets in Chicago. "But somehow I knew I would have to get used to it."

This testament epitomizes the story of some 2,000 midgets in Europe and the U. S., who call themselves the "little people." Today Frieda, now 33, is adjusted to living in a gargantuan setting made for the "big people," a world in which chairs and mailboxes are too high, merchandise out of reach in stores, telephone calls an impossibility in regular booths. Housework takes multiplied energies. To set the table Frieda drags a chair to the cabinet, climbs up to get the dishes. Placing silverware, she has to walk all around the table. "It's so much bother," Frieda says, "when mentally I'm the same as anybody."



Midgets consider themselves show people rather than carnival folk, make \$75 to \$125 a week. Here, Frieda does song routine.

1949

LITTLE PEOPLE CONTINUED



In Chicago hotel lobby, Frieda meets fellow-performers who have also been shopping. It took all three to open elevator door.



Frieda makes the large bed in her hotel room. Midgets abhor special furniture, furnish their homes the same as big people.

Midgets are proud, self-reliant; it took Frieda years to accept the idea she wouldn't grow

MIDGET FOLKLORE spans centuries: from a Tom Thumb who lived at King Arthur's court to the great midget of recent times: General Tom Thumb. His real name was Charles Stratton; he lived from 1838 to 1883, and he was the world-famous protege of P. T. Barnum. Tom Thumb was 21 inches high, talked to Queen Victoria while sitting on her footstool.

Midgets lack a sense of humor, have a vanity which shows up curiously in their disliking to be confused with dwarfs who, they say, are not "little people." Dwarfs are characterized by disproportion, having a head and trunk of normal size but limbs that are stunted.

Anthropologists have only random data on midgets. Dr. C. W. Dupertuis of New York's Presbyterian Hospital studied them and found three types: (1) the infantile midget, who looks and acts like a tiny child; (2) the true midget, who is an intermediate step toward (3) the miniature, a complete tabloid of the big adult.

Midgets have large appetites, although Frieda, a plumpish 63 pounds, can't finish a regular adult's dinner. They also have high resistance to disease and never get bald. They prefer made-to-order clothes, wear chil-

dren's clothes only in a pinch. Frieda's shoes cost \$25 to \$35 a pair.

Frieda doesn't think of herself as a freak. "I'm not tied down to a wheel chair," she says. "I don't need anyone to attend me. I can go anywhere I want and do anything I want. I enjoy my life!"

She Had School Problems

WHEN THE DOCTORS first told her she was going to be small for the rest of her life, it didn't quite sink in. "I just thought that maybe I'd grow less than the average person," she says.

"But I couldn't start in school until I was eight. They didn't want kids under three feet; the others would torment them. As it was the kids made fun of me and called me 'shrimp.' I made up my mind I had to forget about my size. I played games and skipped rope more than the other girls. I thought this might help a miracle happen so that I'd grow and turn out like everybody else."

Gradually she abandoned this hope.

Well-meaning adults often sympathized with her: "Oh, if you were only tall you could marry and lead a normal life," Frieda told them to stop worrying about her. "As far as I was concerned, I was leading a normal

life," she said. "I didn't want pity from anybody . . . That still goes."

She still hopes to marry (she's had several proposals from little people and big people) and she wants children. She'll adopt them if she can't have them.

Once somebody pushed Frieda under a New York subway turnstile, thinking she could get in free. "I walked right back and paid my fare," she says firmly. "I did not want to go in free. I was *not* under age!"

As a hobby, Frieda collects miniature dolls, which some amateur psychologists might think is a subconscious reflection of her own midgetism. But Frieda's practical; like many other women, she simply likes dolls. An expert with the needle, she likes to make "anything that's small or dainty."

Manager of the Riverview Park troupe to which Frieda belongs is Leo Singer, 72, the original Baron von Singer, founder of Singer's Midgets. They began in Austria when Singer's sick daughter, after hearing *Gulliver's Travels*, asked to see a Lilliputian. Singer hired midgets to walk in the garden. His actress-wife taught them, and in time all three Singers were touring with the first all-midget show. Singer's Midgets have played every state in the U. S. Singer's contribution: he has raised midgets above the sideshow freak level, has given them a dignity they never had.



"Papa" Leo Singer, 72, owner-manager of midget troupe, drops in to talk to Frieda.



Mailing a letter, Frieda never asks for help. Midgets get morose not getting mail.



Frieda helps with hairdo of Margie Raia, 26-inch-high "world's smallest woman."



of Singer's Midgets between shows at Riverview Park, Chicago.

Mathematical chances of being a Lilliputian are one in a million. Medical authorities say Lilliputianism is the result of a defect or total absence of the growth hormone of the pituitary gland and is not necessarily hereditary. Frieda has four normal-sized brothers and sisters and no known family history of homunculism, as doctors call it. Children of midgets have invariably grown up big, whether one or both parents were midgets. It is not uncommon for midgets to marry big people and lead happy marital lives, though midget mothers usually have Caesarean births.

Why They Become Actors

LITTLE PEOPLE drift inexorably into show business—simply because it's their best means of expression. Frieda was too tiny to start school till she was eight. After graduating from high school, where she learned dressmaking, weaving and industrial art, she couldn't get a

job. "Too small, too small," was all she heard. Frieda has played Coney Island sideshows, Broadway, other midget troupes besides Singer's, and appeared in the 1938 movie *The Wizard of Oz*.

When she isn't trouping Frieda keeps house at South Ozone Park, N. Y., where she lives with her father, a coach cleaner for the Long Island R. R. Her mother died when Frieda was 14. She does not mind when people try to help her or mistake her for a child, a phobia with most midgets. Frieda accepts dates with large men but is happier with "little people," whom she loves and understands.

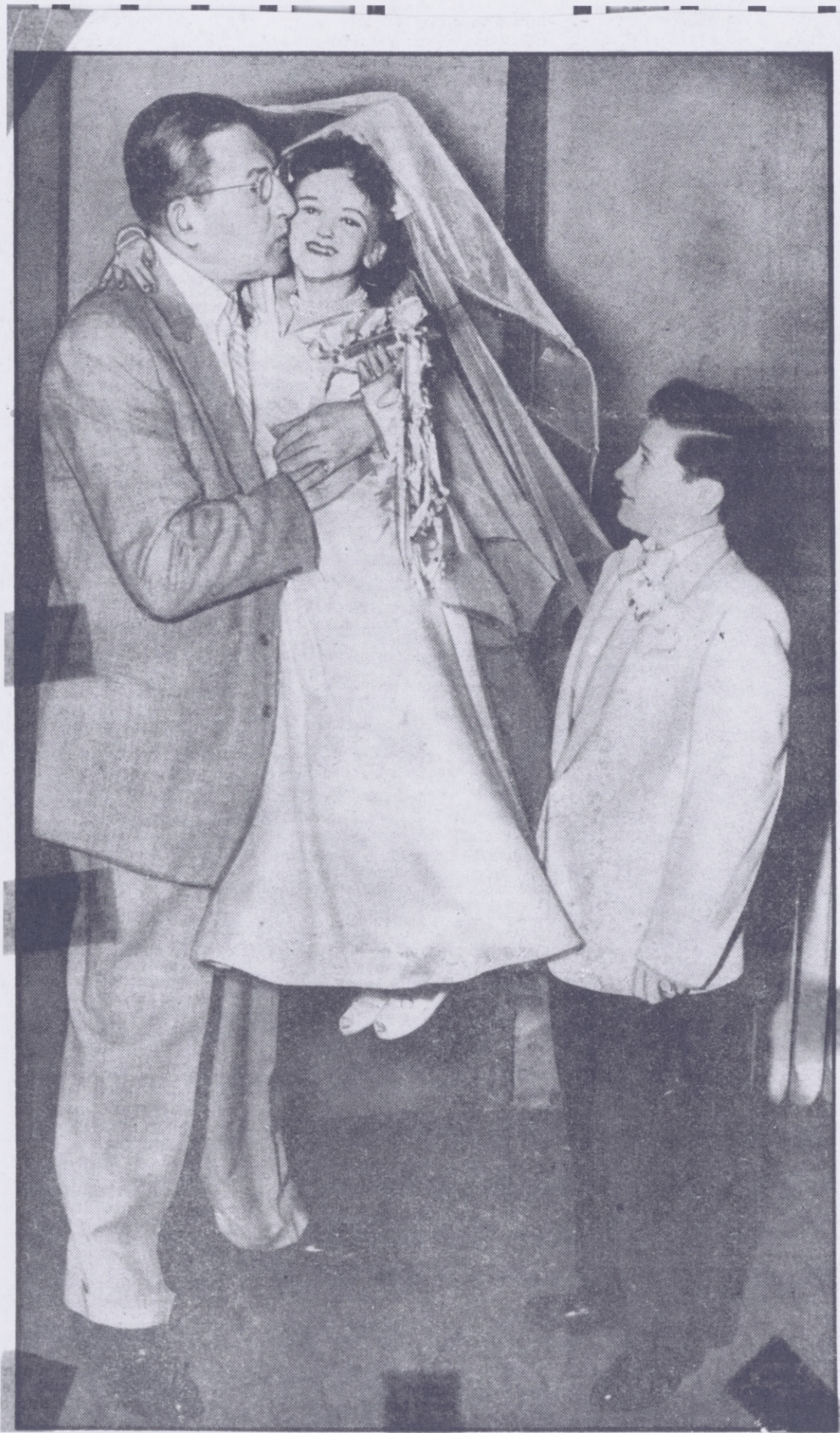
Midgets often cherish a secret hope that they will grow. Many acquire a few inches after 30, and one midget grew to over six feet tall after an illness. Frieda has no such hopes. "God made me the way I am," she says. "It's a fantastic dream to think of being big. Why should I ever tear my heart out?"



Carrying shopping bundles, 33-year-old Frieda looks like girl on an errand.



Ordinary housework calls for muscle and time from three-foot-nine Frieda.



Somebody Lifted The Wedding Belle!

Prof. Robert Sugarman, old friend of the bridal couple, picks up and kisses the bride, Sobia Jennie Riddle, 24. Onlooker is bridegroom Anthony Vendola, 30. Midget pair was married in N. Y. at Ft. George Presbyterian Church.

(Mirror Photo by Bob Gilman)

1950

It really happened to Mr. and Mrs. Spada . . .

AN INFANT HALF THE SIZE OF HIS PARENTS



Proud Papa Spada has to stand on tiptoe to kiss his wife and get a good peek at little Valentino. Below, he eyes the baby asleep in the hospital bassinet.



Photographs from Three Lions

For the second time since their marriage five years ago in Florence, Italy's famous Spada family has added a member to the family. Vittorio and Maria Spada, neither of whom measures three feet in height, are the jubilant parents of a second son, Valentino, weight six pounds four ounces at birth.

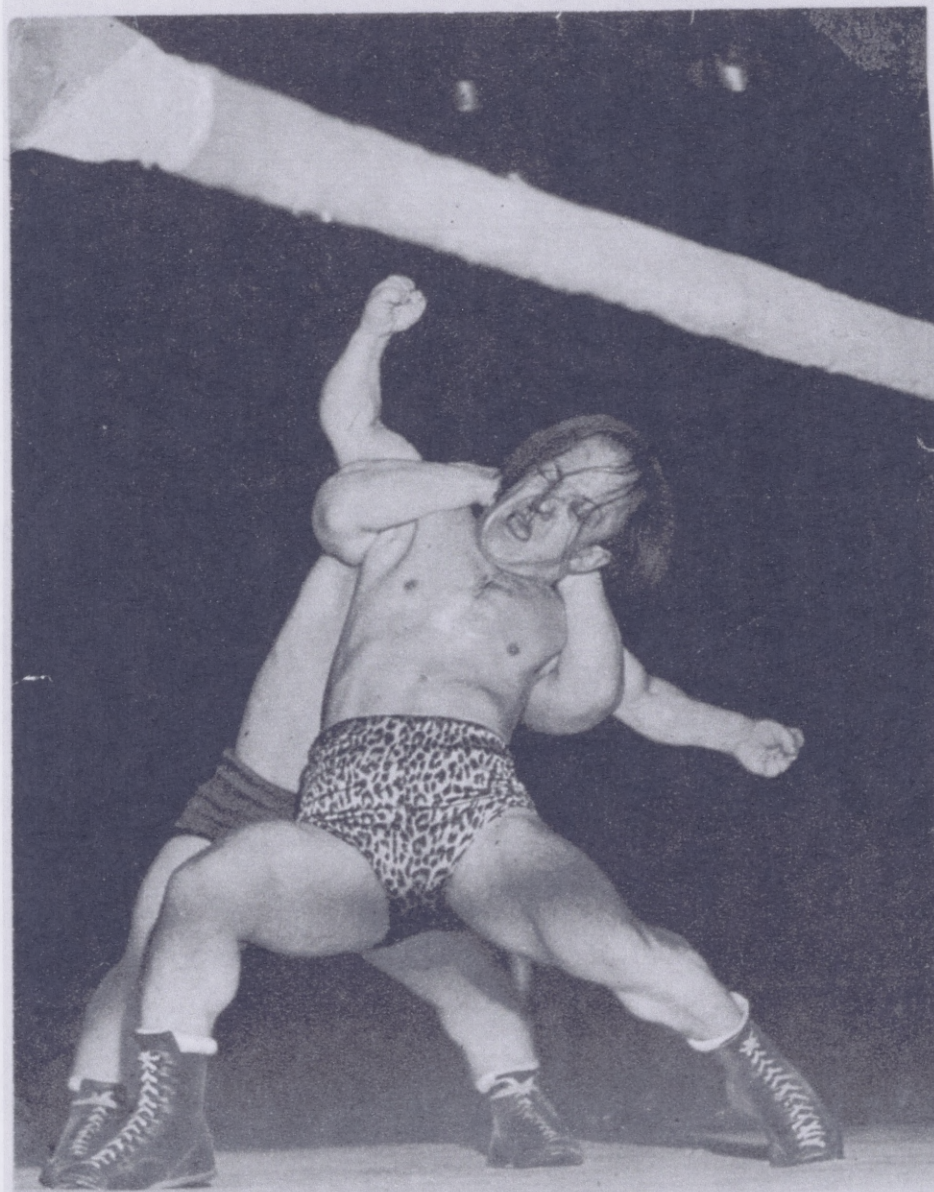
Their first-born, Fiorenzo, is now three years old. Doctors have declared him perfectly normal—he already stands as high as his father's shoulder. The new baby, as well, is normal sized. If the Spadas were six-footers, little Valentino might not have entered the world any larger. In the case of both children, however, medical authorities cautiously say it's too early to determine whether they are destined to be midgets.

The Spadas, circus artists who now live in Turin when not "on the circuit," were catapulted into the spotlight in 1951 when they married. Many celebrities and government officials, as well as hundreds of curious spectators, attended the wedding of Italy's tiniest sweethearts—and now the world is watching their family grow. ◀ ◀



Vittorio holds his new son.

1956



SKY LOW LOW



At Marigold Gardens, Chicago, Sky Low and Pee Wee James get instructions from referee. Left, Sky Low groans in a whole nelson.

Although formal matches between midget wrestlers began in Europe, it did not become popular until transferred to the United States because there were not enough wrestlers there to make it interesting.

Here there are fourteen midget wrestlers, including Sky Low Low. Of French descent and born in Montreal, Canada, this twenty-two year old bundle of pure muscle is the

best in the business and is called by sports writers, "The Little Atlas of the Wrestling World."

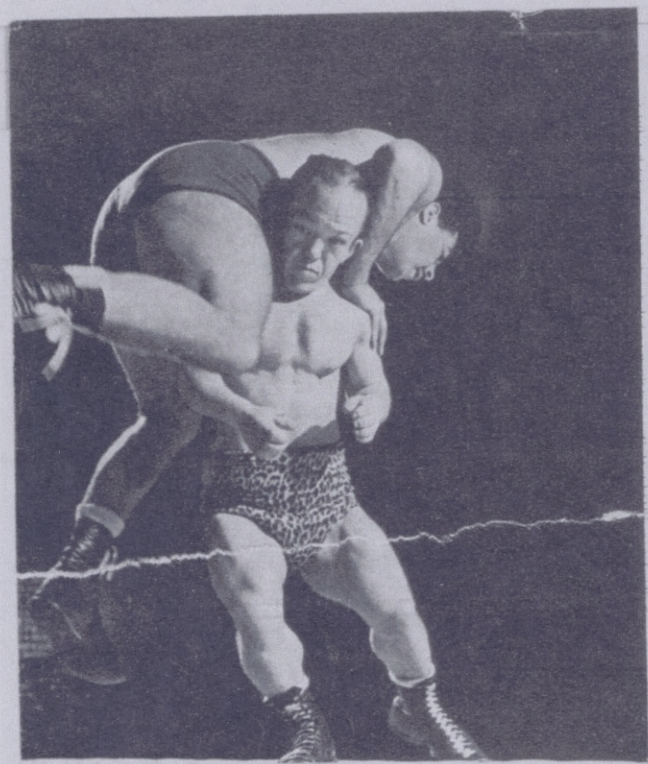
Sky Low Low stands barely three feet nine inches tall and weighs eighty-seven pounds. He has won four hundred of the five hundred bouts he has been in since 1947, when he went to France to participate in the tournament held at the Palais Des Sports and won handily.

Billed as "The Little Atlas of the Wrestling World," this 45-inch French Canadian has won 400 out of 500.

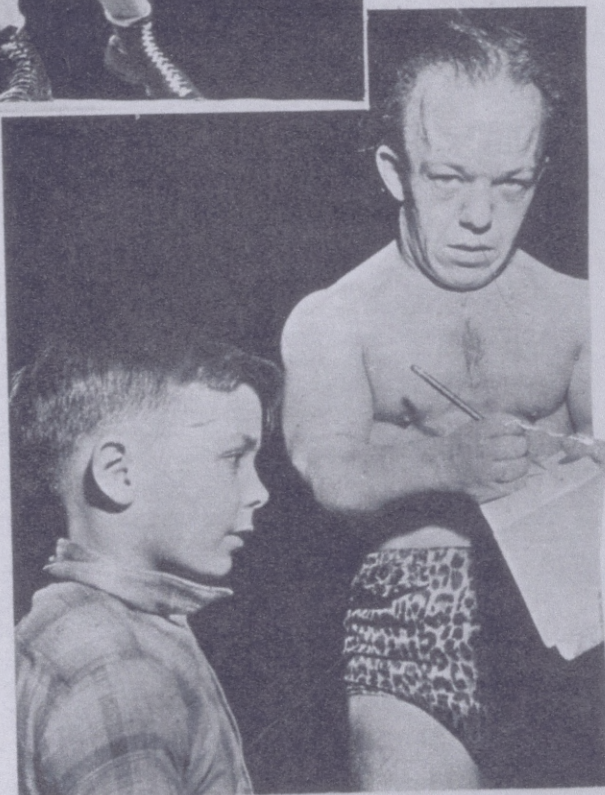
FOTO-RAMA

123

1958



At gym, Sky Low practices a flying tackle on 210-pound trainer.



After beating Pee Wee James, Sky Low obliges fan with autograph.

124

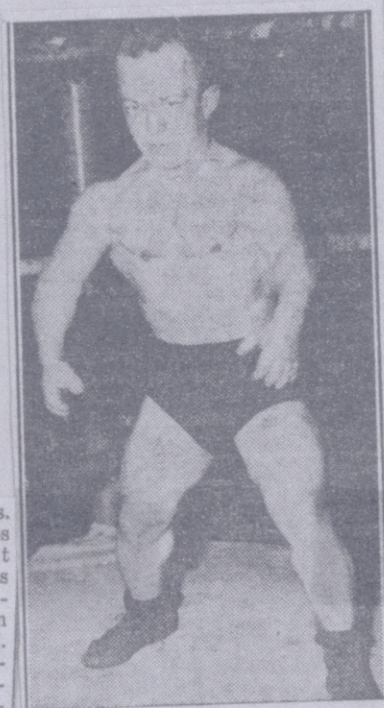
Combat de lutte de 2 nains pour la 1ère fois en Amérique

Il aura lieu mardi soir, au marché Atwater.

Le premier match de lutte de nains au Canada et probablement dans toute l'Amérique, sera présenté mardi soir, au marché Atwater. Il opposera Marcel Gauthier, jeune nain de 23 ans, 4' 3" et 95 livres, à Mickey Langlois, petit bout d'homme de 4' 8", 102 livres, de Québec. Ce dernier se dit le cham-

pion incontesté des 100 livres. Quant à Gauthier, il lutte depuis 8 ans; il s'est perfectionné durant plusieurs tournées aux Etats-Unis et partout à travers le monde comme membre du Royal American Show, un cirque international. Marcel est un p'tit gars de St-Henri. Il est un artiste de la savate. Langlois, lui, a appris à lutter des deux garçons du promoteur R. Ste-Marie, de Québec. Il a 21 ans et est marié depuis 2 ans. Le match entre ces deux pygmées de l'arène devrait s'avérer mémorable dans les annales de la lutte locale.

Le programme sera complété par une finale entre le Fantôme Masqué et Jerry Philippe, un match par équipes entre C. Langlois et R. Grenier et Y. Wallace et A. Désormeaux, ainsi que par une préliminaire entre Bob Laliberté et Ray Renaud. Le promoteur Paul Downing est l'organisateur de cette soirée.



Marcel Gauthier

1959

EXTRA MIDGET BOUT



Vincent Garibaldi
Italy

vs.

Sir
Robert Randall
England



JESSE JAMES vs. GYPSY JOE

Plus 1 Other Bout

CITY HALL, Leominster

1959

1958

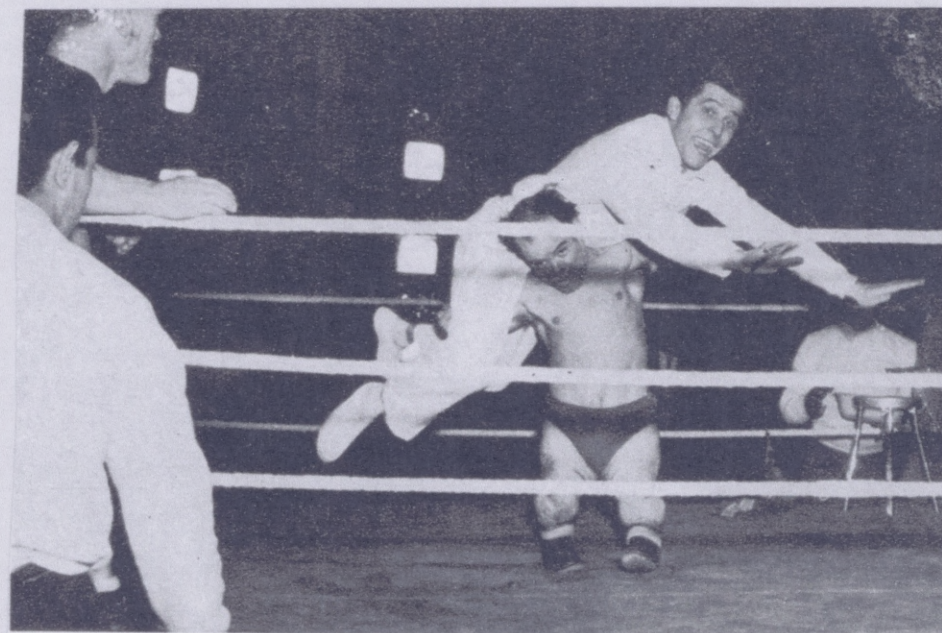


Strong man Rigoulot, who wrestles at 212 lbs., holds 80 lbs. of midget in each arm.



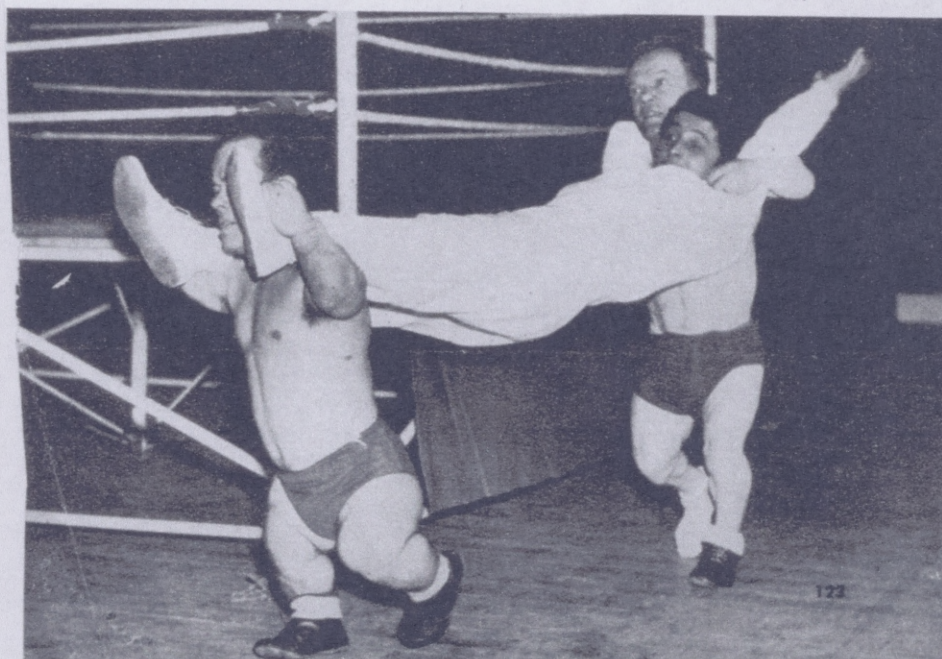
Georgette, wife of Marcel Gueguan, towels down the winner after big Paris match.

Standing on their traveling bags, which are almost as big as the midgets themselves, the mighty mites get a last look at Paris before their next bouts in Rome and Berlin.



This gag gets a big boffola from the wrestling crowds. When one of the runt rasslers objects to a ruling he grabs the referee and starts to throw him out of the ring.

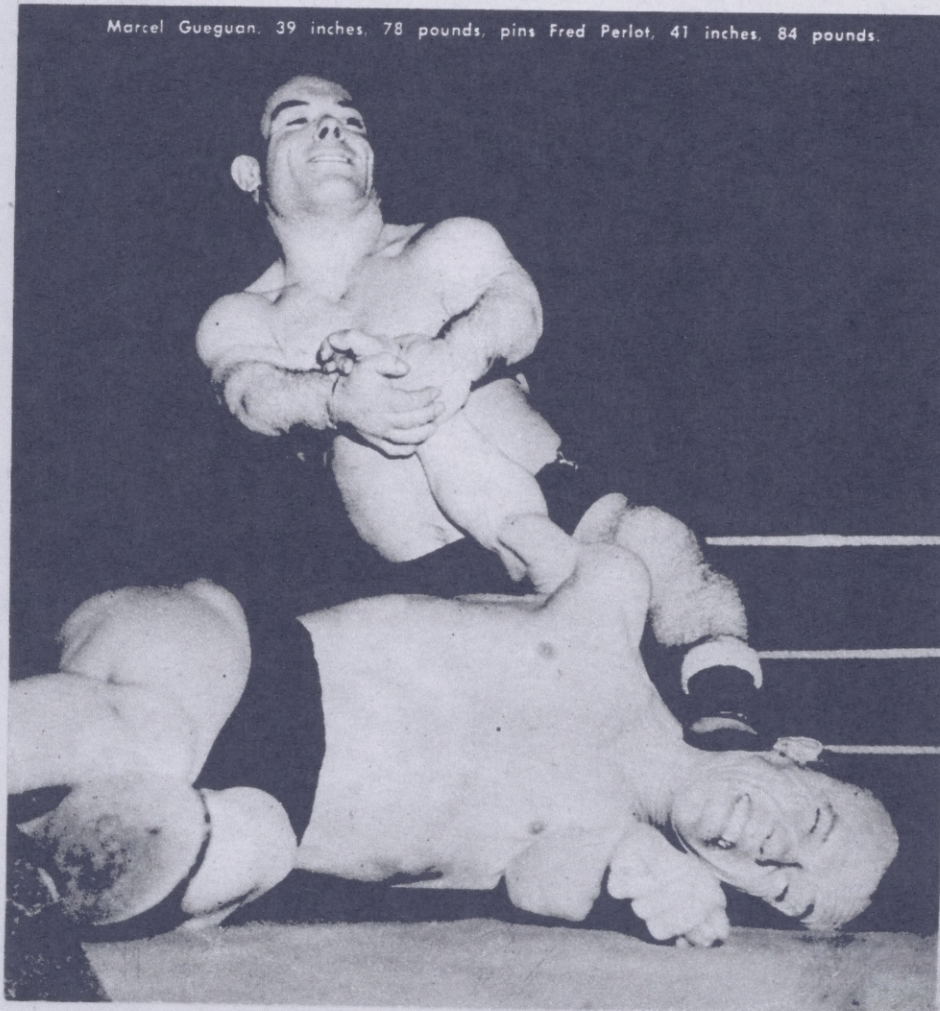
The other midget gets in the act and, after roughing up the ref, they carry him out bodily. Here they're passing their portable, midget ring built for miniature mayhem.



MIGHTY MITES OF THE MAT

The world's smallest wrestlers are the biggest attraction in Europe's grunt-and-groan profession. Here's a ringside seat at the Battle of Bantams.

Marcel Gueguan, 39 inches, 78 pounds, pins Fred Perlot, 41 inches, 84 pounds.



STRONGER than many men three times their weight and size, the midget wrestlers who recently made a sensational appearance in Paris may soon be seen on American TV. Their catch-as-catch-can is rough and ready and will add novelty to the great American grunt-and-groan profession. Weighing only 80 pounds and standing about 3 feet high, Fred Perlot and Marcel Gueguan are powerful little guys who know all the tricks in the wrestling book. Like little David they can take many a Goliath.

Illegal stranglehold and eye-gouge bring squeals from victim, cheers from crowd.



Charles Rigoulot, billed as "World's Strongest Man," is tackled by the mighty midgets.





A LITTLE SQUIRT—Bill Albaugh, national representative of the soft drink firm Squirt and known as "Little Squirt," pours some of the sparkling beverage for Marjorie Bourassa as some of 500 members of the Little People of America here for their national convention take time out for some fun at a local casino. Albaugh's wife, Maria, and Hollywood stunt-man Harry Monty are on box, while at left is Jerry Maren, known as "Little Oscar," and partly hidden at right is Dan Turner, vice-president and next national president of the Little People.

(SUNfoto)

1960

BILL PROVES SMALL SIZE NO HANDICAP

Size doesn't bother Bill Raecke, 24, of 1002 L St., Lincoln, Neb.

Bill stands just four feet seven inches tall and weighs 85 pounds.

He arrived in town yesterday to attend the first annual convention of the National Association of Little People of America and to visit with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Young, 1307 Exley Ave., Las Vegas.

Mrs. Young is superintendent of nurses at Sunrise Hospital.

Though he has to look up to do it, Bill stares life full in the face.

"I figured that out long ago when I stopped growing as a kid and faced the problem of living a productive life in a tall world or sitting in a corner with a chip on my shoulder.

"I decided never to refuse to try anything because of my size.

"I've never had reason to regret my decision."

He received a B.A. in speech in 1959 from the University of Nebraska, working his way through school at the university's television station.

Looking back on his college experiences he tells about the shock his first roommate at Nebraska got when he opened the closet door in their room before they met.

As Bill laughingly relates, "Hanging there were my short jackets and trousers and on the floor my small shoes. My roommate dashed off to see the registrar, demanding to know what kind of joke was being played on him."

Bill now works as production assistant at the university television station, serving as director, cameraman, actor, writer and producer. He also works part time in a music store, selling all types

of musical instruments, radio, TV and stereo sets.

He is the son of the late Walter R. Raecke of Central City, Neb., a long-time member, before his death in April, 1960, of the Nebraska legislature and two-time Democratic candidate for governor.

Bill attributes his happy adjustment to a problem which has long discouraged others to the fact he was raised by parents who treated him just like other children in the family.

His mother continues to live in Central City.

To Attend Parley

Miss Lena Richard, daughter of Thaddy Richard and the late Mrs. Richard of 216 St. Joseph avenue will leave Sunday by plane for Las Vegas, Nev., to attend the 1960 Convention of the Little People of America.

Approximately 200 little folk are expected to attend the second get-together at the Hacienda Hotel from Nov. 28 through Dec. 1. Billy Barty, a prominent television and radio star was instrumental last year in organizing the group following his appearance on the "This Is Your Life" program on television.

Little People Hold Business Parley Today

About 500 members of the Little People of America, gathered in Las Vegas for their national convention, will hold their first business session today at a Strip hotel.

Employment opportunities for people handicapped by small size will be the major topic of discussion at the conclave by members of the association, which is limited to persons who are under four feet nine inches in height.

The delegates also will elect one man and one woman as "Mr. and Mrs. Lillyput of America" during the convention, which will run through Thursday here.

Persons from all walks of life make up the Little People of America, which is headed by President Billy Barty, TV and movie actor who currently is playing in the Peter Gunn TV series and has been in various movies, notably "Midsummer Night's Dream."

Dan Turner, national vice-president of the association, slated to become Barty's successor as president.

'Little People' Make Big Hit in Vegas

1,200 Parley Planners Begin Meet



BIG AND LITTLE—Delegates from one convention now going on in Las Vegas stop to admire an exhibit from another conclave here. President Billy Barty, on ground, and Vice President Dan Turner, of the Little People of America, look over the seven-foot-high bottle of aspirin tablets displayed by Monsanto Chemical Co. at the International Convention Planning Exposition, "first convention for convention planners," at Las Vegas Convention Center. It holds 2½ million tablets.

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP)—Little people can handle big jobs. That's the theme of a convention that by all odds is one of the zaniest this gambling resort has seen. Bartenders, blackjack dealers and bellboys are baffled by the comings and goings of 300 men and women "no bigger'n a minute," as one said.

It's the first annual convention of the National Association of Little People of America.

"Our organization includes both midgets and dwarfs," said Bob Brower, 33, a Des Moines, Iowa, supermarket operator. "We prefer to be called little people."

And little they are. At 4-10, Bob is the tallest of a group that scales down to 2-11. That's hip-high to a middling man and a clean six inches above a conventional office desk. You'd never spot the littlest chap behind a waste basket. Bob's wife, Marcella, a dancer, is 4-1½.

Always keeping an eye out for the house, the Hacienda Hotel built ramps and steps for its pint-size guests at the dice tables and other games of chance.

The little people don't mind gagging it up. They posed with eight in a bed. They welcomed the platforms around the take-ye-money gadgets with which this gambling center abounds.

They Think Big

But with their laughs, the delegates are serious about some things. That's why they're here.

"We want to make the big people understand that little people think the same as they do," one delegate said. "And we want to show we can do a man-sized job as well as the next fellow. There are lots of things that don't require a 6-footer's reach."

What sort of jobs do they fill? Delegates include veterinarians, commercial artists, a lawyer, an industrial engineer, salesmen, wrestlers and entertainers — among other things.

What do the conventioners chat about?

One of them shrugged. "It's just small talk," he said.



SHORT PUTT — A foursome on the fifth hole in the Tiny Tournament of Champions currently being played on the Hacienda Hotel's miniature golf course, watch one of the delegates at the first annual convention of the Little People of America, hole a short putt. Sinking the ball is Nells Nelson, of Hollywood, Calif., while Charles Cross, of Iona, Mich., Joe Vercellino, of Palo Alto, Calif., Charles Be Devne, of Onairo, Minn., and scorekeeper Marilyn English, of Phoenix, Ariz., look on.

REVIEW-JOURNAL PHOTO



LITTLE PEOPLE ARRIVE—Woody Cole, Las Vegas constable who stands six foot four, is shown giving Billy Barty, Los Angeles, three feet eight, a lift into waiting Volkswagen bus as a group of the little folk arrived on a flight from Los Angeles. Barty, president of the Little People of America, is presently being featured on the Peter Gunn TV series, and welcomed some 250 little folks from all parts of the country who arrived in Las Vegas for a four-day session, their first national convention, at the Hacienda Hotel. Others shown in the picture are Little Oscar from Los Angeles, center, and Ivan Tueselink from Glendale.

(SUNfoto)

1960

GOOD THINGS IN SMALL PACKAGES

Little People Handle Big Jobs



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LITTLE PEOPLE IN BIG CONVENTION AT LAS VEGAS
President Billy Barty Tees Off to Get the Little People's Tournament of Champions Underway
While Other Midgets and Dwarfs Await Their Turn; Billy Averages 80 for 18 Holes

LAS VEGAS, Nev. Dec. 1 (AP) — Little people can handle big jobs. That's the theme of a convention that by all odds is one of the zaniest this gambling resort has seen.

Bartenders, blackjack dealers and bellboys are baffled by the comings and goings of 300 men and women "no bigger'n a minute," as one said.

It's the first annual convention of the National Association of Little People of America.

"Our organization includes both midgets and dwarfs," said Bob Brower, 33, a Des Moines, Iowa, supermarket operator. "We prefer to be called little people."

TALLEST IS 4'-10"

And little they are. At 4-10 Bob's the tallest of a group that scales down to 2-11. That's hip-high to a midgeting man a clean six inches above a conventional office desk. You'd never spot the littiest chap behind a waste basket. Bob's wife, Marcella, a dancer, is 4-1½.

Always keeping an eye out for the house, the Hacienda Hotel built ramps and steps for its pint-size guests at the crap tables and other games of chance.

But the conventioners are used to standing on tiptoe. Like in the phone booth, or at the registration desk.

The little people don't mind gagging it up. They posed with eight in a bed. They welcomed the platforms around the take-ye-money gadgets with which this gambling center abounds.

They threw themselves with a vengeance into a golf tournament which featured a trophy as big as the players. A sporting goods company supplied tiny clubs just right for the folks using them — putters a foot long, drivers not much more.

But with their laughs, the delegates are serious about some things. That's why they're here.

"We want to make the big people understand that little people think the same as they do," one delegate said. "And we want to show we can do a man-sized job as well as the next fellow. There are lots of things that don't require a six-footer's reach."

FILL MANY JOBS

What sort of jobs do they fill? Delegates include veterinarians, commercial artists, a lawyer, an industrial engineer, salesmen, wrestlers and entertainers — among other things.

"We're having a ball," said Dale Paullin, 37, of Marshalltown, Iowa. He's 4-2½ and a few years ago starred in the movie, "It's a Small World," which portrayed the life—and heartaches—of a little guy in a big guys' world.

What do the conventioners chat about?

One of them shrugged. "It's just small talk," he said.

Northwest Midgets Hold First Regional Conclave

A group of people small in stature, the Northwest Chapter of the Little People of America, had its first meeting Sunday at the home of Dallas Ziska, 8930 SE Lincoln St.

The things they considered related to problems, as well as some advantages, of people who must cope with a civilization whose products are produced for larger people and whose attitudes sometimes categorize small people as "different" in other than size.

On the agenda was the problem of attracting other small people to their group. First, none is certain just how many midgets there are in the Northwestern states. "Twelve in Oregon, perhaps," Ziska estimated, "and perhaps 12 in Washington; maybe 50 in the six Northwestern states. It's awfully hard to know."

Isolation Common

Some small people, as some bigger people, live apart and resist social contacts. Some are adjusted to a life pattern that sees no need for joining a group based on size alone. But others are afraid of seeing others of the same size.

"Some have never been with little people," said Shirley Berg, Berkenfeld, secretary of the group. "It's a real shock to meet a group of them for the first time."

Last year's national meeting in California was a profound experience to many.

"You know, we see the world just as you bigger people do," said Lloyd King, Seattle, chairman of the Northwest district. "We look through our eyes at things and don't see ourselves as others do — and when we saw 150 little people, it was frightening."

King's observation raised a bit of speculation:

A six-footer suddenly landing among 150 people of much smaller size — that would be startling. For awhile he would feel "lost," in a sense. But a midget would have the same reaction, later to be modified by an increased awareness of the difference in size between himself and most people.

Advantage Inherent

Many of the group find themselves at home in the space age, being naturals for delicate work inside rocket nose cones and other small assemblies.

Not for a moment, however, are these people ruled out of more prosaic jobs. Represented in the group were a teacher, county clerk, Army engineer, barber, bartender, gift shop manager and several entertainers.

The next event planned is a picnic, for which the date has not yet been set.



PLANS FOR A LITTLE PICNIC were jotted down on a stool Sunday by Shirley Berg, secretary of the Northwest Division of the

Little People of America, and Lloyd King, chairman. "There's nothing small about appetites," members said.

SHIRLEY HARPER &
Lloyd King

1961

THE WORLD OF LITTLE PEOPLE

by LLOYD SHEARER

LAS VEGAS, NEV.

HAVE YOU EVER in your wildest dreams imagined yourself a midget?

Suppose you were only 3 or 4 feet tall, what sort of tiptoe life might you lead in this out-sized world of ours?

How would you drive a car? How would you reach the phone in a telephone booth? Where would you find adult clothes to fit you? How could you reach a counter in a cafeteria, a ticket booth in a theatre, a newsstand on the street corner?

A few weeks ago approximately 200 midgets and dwarfs gathered here at the annual convention of their association, The Little People of America.

They came together to inspire and encourage each other and to acquaint the public with their special problems.

According to the little people themselves, there are about 3,000 midgets and dwarfs in North America.

To them, a midget is a correctly-proportioned miniature copy of a man or woman of normal height. Most midgets vary between 3 and 4 feet in height.

Dwarf is a term applied by midgets to misshapen little men and women who are not correctly proportioned, although science groups all adults under the height of 4 feet 11 as dwarfs.

Midgets dislike being classified as dwarfs. At this convention they appointed a special "dictionary committee" to contact dictionary publishers throughout the world. They want the publishers to offer a more accurate definition of the word "midget." Most dictionaries now define a midget as "a very small person—see 'dwarf'."

What bothers most little people, both midgets and dwarfs, are the so-called normal people—persons like you and me.

Complains Bill Barty, 3-foot-6 actor who often works on the *Peter Gunn* TV show: "The average person regards us not as human beings with individual mentalities and skills but as freak playthings. Women pick us up and sit us in their laps. They pat us on the head and say, 'Aren't you a cute little darling.'"

"We don't like being treated as children. Among us we number actors, brokers, accountants, designers and machinists. And yet in most cases we are being discriminated against because of our size. People won't hire us for jobs we are qualified to perform because we're little."

Bob Brower, a midget from Des Moines, Iowa, who owns interests in three supermarkets, disagrees with Barty.

"We can't expect the world to adjust to us," Brower says. "We have to adjust to the world. Many little people won't do this. On the one hand they say they

want to be treated like everyone else. On the other hand they ask for special privileges.

"For example," Brower continues, "at this convention they've passed the following resolutions:

- "Half-fare on planes, trains and buses for little people.

- "Half-price meals, also lower cafeteria steamtables 'so we can see what we are buying.' Also, members of the Culinary Workers' Union should notify its members to desist from addressing such remarks as 'What will you have, Sonny?'

- "Some shoe manufacturer should create midget-size shoes at reasonable prices, thereby freeing us little people from the high price of custom-made shoes.

- "A committee should meet with and importune the telephone company for phone booths reachable by 4-foot persons. The phone company should also include glass paneling in the lower portion of phone booths, so when a little person is making a call, a big person will not be trying to step inside.

Midgets Are Made

"What we need from the public," Brower contends, "is not special privilege or special equipment but understanding born of knowledge. Most people don't know that any man or woman may be the parent of a midget.

"Except in very rare cases, midgets aren't born. We're made. We're the result of faulty gland-functioning. Generally, an under-functioning pituitary gland produces a midget. Other glands like the thyroid and gonads are also involved.

"In my own case," Brower reveals, "I was a normal baby at birth. I think I weighed 7 or 8 pounds. I was the second of seven living boys. My father, a farmer from Mexico, Mo., is 5 feet 8. My mother is 5 feet 1. I'm the only midget in our family.

"I stopped growing normally when I was 4 years old. I was then 3 feet 5 inches tall. By the time I was 16, I was only 3 feet 11.

"The worst part," Brower recalls, "is that my parents never realized there was anything wrong with me. They thought that sooner or later I'd start to grow and catch up.

"The first person who realized I was too short for my age was my high school principal in Vandalia, Missouri. He was a diabetic who made periodic visits to the Barnes Hospital in St. Louis. He brought my plight before the Vandalia Business Men's Club, and they paid for my first visit to Barnes.

"At the hospital they gave me shots of pituitin for three years. I started growing again after the treatments stopped. From age 18 to 25, I grew 11 inches. That's another thing people don't know about midgets. Our bone-ends do not close or ossify so that after 30 we can still grow several inches. Sometimes we can



Married couple: Ruth Spiering, whose parents are also midgets, poses with husband Dick, who stands 5 feet 10. About 50 per cent of midgets in U.S. marry persons of normal height.



Group here is a portion of the 200 midgets and dwarfs who showed up at Las Vegas, Nev., recently for annual convention of the Little People of America.

even outgrow our midgethood. I'm now 4 feet 10 and 33 years old. My wife is 4 feet 2.

"We have two adopted children. Insofar as I know we're the only midgets in the world who've been allowed to adopt normal children. As you probably know, midgets do not beget midget children. The children of midgets usually outgrow their parents before they are 9 years old."

Several midgets I interviewed here revealed that practically all midget mothers are delivered via Caesarean section. They are usually reluctant to bring babies into the world.

The reason for this is that whether one or both parents are midgets, the overwhelming odds—there are only a handful of exceptions—are that the children will be normal. And while normality and conformity bring happiness to a child, they invariably mean heartbreak to the midget parents.

The Daughter's Dilemma

"It's so very hard to describe," one little woman told me, "how I felt while my daughter was growing up. I prayed that she would grow tall and pretty and charming. And yet deep down inside I knew the day would come when she would be ashamed of me and her father, because we are midgets and different, and in the eyes of her schoolmates that would make her different, too."

"Well, my daughter grew up. She's 5 feet 6. But how that girl suffered. I remember the first time she brought a beau home and introduced him to us. He tried not to show it but he was shocked. He stopped going with her after that."

"Today my daughter is married to a very prosperous oil man in Texas or Oklahoma, but we never see her. She told her husband she was an orphan. The poor child was afraid that if she ever told any man the truth, she'd never get married. Her father and I understand and forgive her."

Most little people blame their parents for their mal-

adjustment to society. "My childhood was the most miserable one in the world," one dwarf confided to me. "My parents kept me hidden. If we were driving from one town to another and a car was passing us, they'd make me duck down. They were completely ashamed of me. They made me feel despicable and unwanted, and I can't remember how many times I contemplated suicide."

"I think practically every midget or dwarf when he first realizes his affliction, his handicap, is filled with such shock and despair that he starts to think of suicide. Only in cases where the parents are intelligent and understanding do midgets grow up with a relatively good chance to adjust to society."

One such well-adjusted midget is Frank Delfino of San Diego, Calif., whose midget daughter, Ruth, was the most beautiful little woman at the convention.

The son of Italian-American parents, Frank was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., some 50 years ago. He weighed 8 pounds at birth, enjoyed a normal, healthy infancy until he was 6. Then his growth lagged. His parents made him eat larger portions of food. When this did no good, they took him to the family doctor.

Specialists were consulted. They prescribed pituitary extracts. But at 13, Frankie was as tall as he had been at 5. He was 3 feet 8 inches tall.

Fortunately, the Delfino parents insisted upon treating their son as if he were a normal youngster. When Frankie said he wanted to try out for the football team at Brooklyn Technical High School or to play shortstop on the neighborhood baseball team, they told him to go ahead and do his best.

Over the years, Frank's friends and schoolmates came to accept him. He even won a varsity letter as a high school cheer leader. Frank's parents gave him violin lessons. He developed into an excellent musician. Surrounded by a family that exuded warmth, love and sympathy, Frank succeeded in adjusting physically and mentally to a world he never made.

In 1934 he came to Chicago as a violinist at the

World's Fair. There he met Sadie Williams, a midget who was working at a candy exhibition. By that time Frank had grown to 4 feet. Sadie was 3 feet 10.

They were married in Minneapolis in 1937. And seven months later a daughter, Ruth, was prematurely born to the couple.

Against the Odds

Ruth weighed 5 pounds 12 ounces at birth and measured 18 inches. "But even so," Sadie Delfino avers, "I knew instinctively that the baby was a midget. In many ways I was thankful because I knew it would be easier to raise her. There is only one other family I know of, the Clifton family in Austin, Tex., in which a midget mother had a midget baby."

Last July, Ruth Delfino, 23 years of age, 4 feet 3 inches in height, was married in San Diego to Richard William Spiering, 21, 5 feet 10 inches tall, of Monticello, Minn.

A beautiful woman, blonde and hazel-eyed and perfectly proportioned, Ruthie says, "I had the most wonderful childhood. My parents worked for the Curtis Candy Company, and as we traveled around the country together, we were such a closely-knit family, we were together so much of the time, that I never realized my parents or I were smaller than other people."

"I never felt strange even when I went to Woodrow Wilson Junior High. My first realization that I was a midget came in my junior year at Herbert Hoover High in San Diego. The teachers began asking me various medical questions about my background. They tried to find out why I was so small. It was only then that I realized I was different."

"The trouble with most parents who have a midget child is that they either place the child in show business or keep him hidden at home. In both cases the child begins to feel like a freak. My parents raised me perfectly. I'm a good secretary, if I say so myself, and I think I'm a pretty good wife."

1961 6

2 Boys' Fates Linked to a Fateful Promise

By LYNN SIMROSS,
Times Staff Writer

On a sunny afternoon just three weeks ago, Kathy Weber and Carolyn Straw were sitting in the courtyard of their Hollywood apartment complex talking about their futures. Each of them was the single mother of two boys, and they shared a deep concern about what would become of their children if something should happen to them.

The godparents of Straw's 2-year-old twin sons already had agreed to take her boys, and Straw promised Weber that she would look after her teen-agers if anything ever happened to her.

This week Carolyn Straw is keeping that promise.

'It May Not Be Easy'

Kathy Weber was killed by a hit-and-run driver in a crosswalk of a darkened streetcorner in Hollywood 10 days ago, and Straw has legally consented to become the boys' permanent guardian. This week in Los Angeles Superior Court, Steve Montes, 16, and David Collazo, 14, will petition to have Straw appointed as such.

"It may not be easy, but I'm going to do it," Straw said a few days after the accident. "I told Steve at the hospital, 'I promised your mom I would take care of you and David, and I will.'"

During the week since Weber's

Jack Smith is on vacation.



MARSHA TRAEGER / Los Angeles Times

Carolyn Straw, above, wants to be guardian of teen-agers David, left, and Steve, right, whose mother, Kathy Weber, below, died in accident. With boys are Straw's twin toddlers, Brian and Joshua.



death, Straw began to set the guardianship plans in motion. She feared the county would take the boys to foster homes, but was assured by children's services

worker Lennard Benson of the county Bureau of Social Services that Steve and David could remain with her for the time being.

"I'm not going to take them out of this situation now," Benson said. "You can see there is a lot of love there. I think this is a suitable environment at this time."

Search for New Home

The boys have moved across the courtyard to Straw's apartment, and are now in the process of sorting out their possessions and deciding what to keep. Later on, they will have a garage sale to get rid of what they don't want.

Straw, a 41-year-old legal secretary and former elementary-school teacher, soon will start searching for another place to live, because

Please see **BOYS**, Page 6

BOYS: A Fateful Promise Changes Their Lives

Continued from First Page

remaining in the building could be difficult.

"The boys don't want to stay here, and that's understandable," Straw explained. "They've grown up here and there are too many memories. Steve said, 'I can handle staying here right now, as long as I know it's temporary.' David is keeping everything bottled up, but I know moving would be better for all of us."

A little over 10 years ago, Katalin Weber moved into the pleasant yellow stucco building in Hollywood with her two sons, then 4 and 6. Her friends said she was a sociable young woman and easily made friends with her neighbors. She never used her given first name, preferring instead to be called Kathy.

Weber had all of the usual problems of a single mother trying to raise two children—and more. She was a little person, a dwarf only four feet tall, with two average-size children. They lived on her disability check from Social Security, and received \$408 a month for the two boys from Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC).

Weber had worked for Goodwill, but quit her job to take care of her children after David was born. Sometimes she baby-sat for neighbors and once appeared in a movie, "The Other."

In recent days, she paid the rent, utilities and telephone each month from her disability check, about \$400, and used what was left to buy food until Steve and David's check came to carry them through the rest of the month. Most times there was a little money remaining for Weber to socialize with her friends at Danny's, a neighborhood bar on Melrose. She was walking home from Danny's when she was fatally injured.

Weber told her friends she didn't know the whereabouts of Steve's father; David's was living in Ohio.

When their mother died at Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital on the morning of May 21, Steve and David had \$17 to their names, Steve said.

Money Needed for Forest Lawn Niche

Neighbors and friends collected money for Weber's cremation and memorial service, and are trying to raise an additional \$250 to purchase a niche at Forest Lawn in which to place her ashes.

Talking about his mother last week, Steve said she would have liked to have been buried next to her stepfather, Charles Sugar, at Forest Lawn, but the family didn't have the money for that expense.

"They were really close. She loved him and he loved her," he said. "We used to go up to Fresno to visit his relatives. He was an actor and a painter. All the art work in our apartment is his. He had no prejudices against her size. My mom never got along with her real father."

Weber's mother, who lives elsewhere in Hollywood, already has given her consent to Straw's guardianship of the boys; David's father in Ohio has been contacted, said Straw, but has not yet made a decision.

"Everybody here has helped us," Steve said of his neighbors. "And other people, too. A lady I worked for for three weeks—I walked her dog before and after school—gave us some money. The owners of the building did, too. And M.J.'s (next door neighbor M.J. Cody) sister made us a turkey dinner."

A minister donated his time to conduct the memorial service; two therapists have offered to counsel Steve and David free of charge.

Straw and lawyer David Rosenman, who, with his fiancée Patty Menart, serves as godparent to Straw's children, are in the process of setting up a trust fund for Steve and David.

The boys' AFDC aid will be continued, Straw said, and she will apply to be reimbursed for the funeral expenses through the California Victims of Violent Crime Act.

Steve, a junior at Fairfax High, would like to go to college to study zoology, he said. His half-brother, an all-star baseball player, attends LeConte Junior High, and would also like to enroll in college. Both boys are good students, Straw said.

"The major thing for us is school," Steve said. "My mom always said we should get an education. She went to Virgil Junior High, but she didn't graduate from high school. She liked to paint, but what she really wanted to be was a concert pianist. But as she grew older, her fingers wouldn't reach the keys."

Making ends meet, according to Steve, always has been a struggle for the family.

'She Came Last'

"To my mom, bills were first, then us and her last," Steve said. "Even for small things, like what to have for dinner, we always got to choose."

"She came last compared to everybody else. If you asked her what she wanted for her birthday or Christmas, she'd always say she wanted things for the house, glasses or plates or something, never anything for herself. But I was going to buy her a goose down pillow, like the one she talked about having (as a child)."

"I remember she once told me the only reason she lived was for me and David. She said she didn't have anything else to live for."

Kathy Weber, 37, had been a resident of Hollywood since moving there from Budapest, Hungary, with her parents when she was about 13 or 14.

She was a young child in a Catholic school in Hungary when she found out she was different from others. Her parents, said Steve, never told her she was a dwarf. "But in school she realized she was different because when she sat at her desk her feet didn't reach the floor like the other kids. She went home and asked her parents, and they said she was 'special.' She was, too."

"That word describes Kathy perfectly," Straw said, who taught David in elementary school and became a neighbor of the family 3½ years ago. "She loved kids. I

remember when I came home from the hospital with my boys, Brian and Joshua. She was standing at the back gate with her hands on her hips, smiling. She carried them both around and came over every day to help me for about three months."

"She taught me so much about being a mother," Straw added. "She said, 'Get a cigar box and keep every treasure they give you, beer caps, rocks, a drawing. Whatever it is, it's such a treasure for them, that it becomes a treasure to you.'"

"She really loved kids," Steve said. "And kids loved her. Everybody loved her. She was outgoing and friendly. And we all had fun together."

"Mom never got tired of kids. Kids would follow her around, and some would come up and ask why she was so small and she was never rude to them. Sometimes she'd kid and say she was so small because she didn't eat her vegetables when she was little."

Only once in a while, Steve remembered, did his mother become depressed about her size, and that was when someone said something unusually cruel to her.

Out walking with his mother when he was a little boy, Steve recalled, he had called her "Mommy" and a woman who overheard him said, "That can't be your mommy. People like her can't have babies like you."

"Sometimes she got upset and thought we were ashamed of her because of her size," he added. "But she was totally normal to me. She was just my mom."

Since the accident, Los Angeles Police Department investigators have located one witness who gave them a description of the car that hit Weber, and a partial license plate number.

The auto is described as a 1966-68 Cadillac with a brown body and white top. The plate is a Louisiana registration with the partial number of 7 E 545.

"Other than that we don't have much to go on," said Officer Al Jordan of the West Traffic Division. "I know there are some people who saw the accident. People have told me there are always people standing around outside Danny's." Anyone with additional information about the accident is asked to call Jordan at 202-0716, ext. 545.

"But so far, no one else has come forward," Jordan added. "We're hoping someone will, because this shouldn't go unanswered."

1961

Charge Two Midgets With Short Change

NEW YORK (AP)—Two midgets were arrested on charges of scooting under a subway turnstile to avoid the 15-cent fare. They claimed they were pushed under by morning crowds. Their case proved quite a strain for everyone when they were taken before a magistrate. The midgets had to stand on tiptoe to see the magistrate,

perched behind his lofty bench, and the magistrate had to stretch over the bench to peer down at them.

The diminutive defendants were Stanley Janus, 38 years old and 37 inches tall, and his brother, Lester, 40 and 35.

A Transit Authority patrolman grabbed them, he said, after seeing them slip under the turnstile with only a slight lowering of their heads.

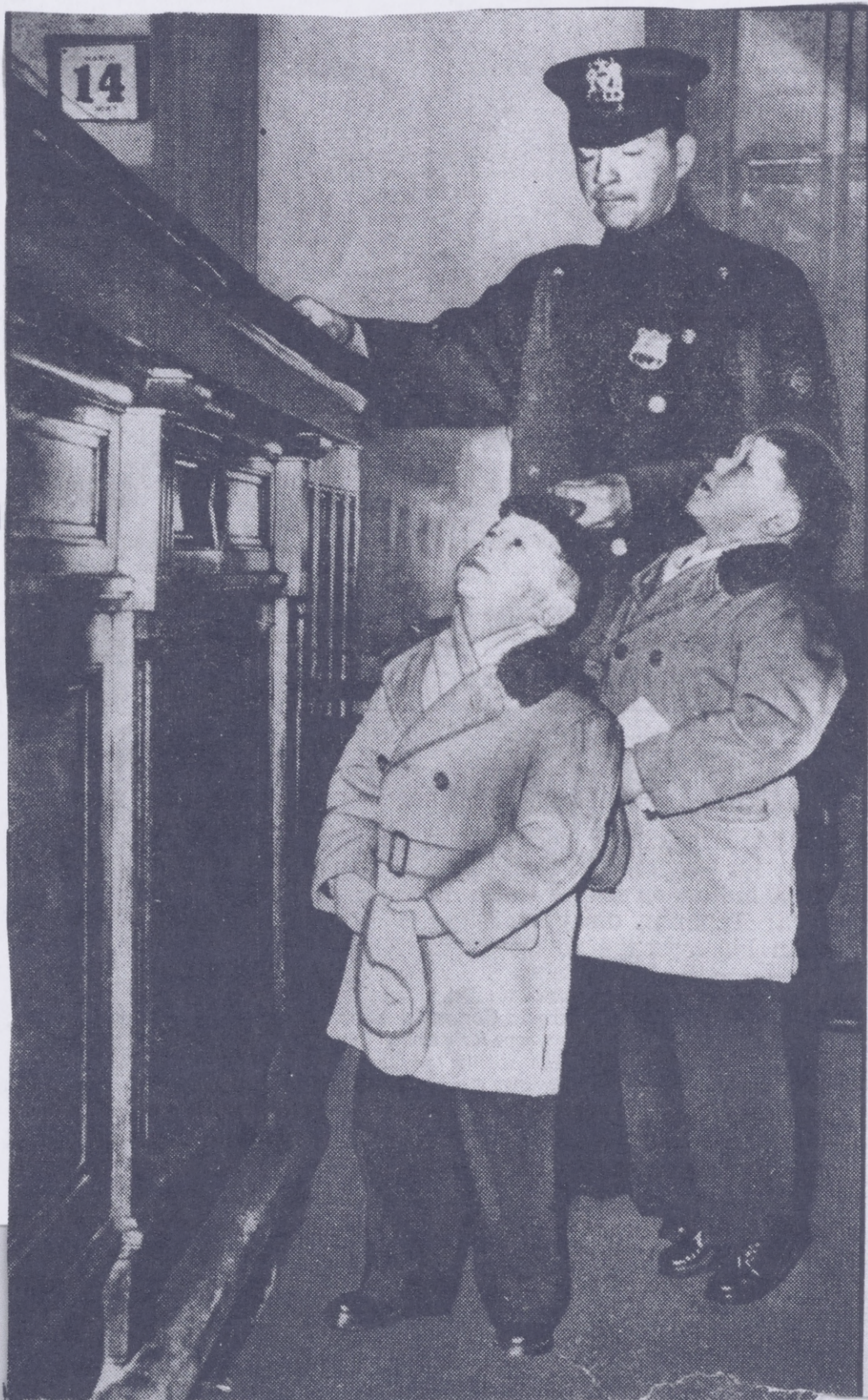
LOOED LIKE TOTS

At first, he said, he thought they were only small children—who normally get in free by the same tactics—until he did a doubletake.

Stanley and Lester pleaded guilty, but with an explanation.

They said they usually travel in buses or cabs to avoid the subway crush but took the subway this morning because they were in a hurry.

Lester explained that the



POSING A PROBLEM—Pair of midgets, Stanley Janus, 38, left, and his brother, Lester, 40, look up at desk in New York police station after arrest on charges of slipping under a subway turnstile to beat the fare. The Janus

brothers, hired to play roles of L chauns at a pre-St. Pat party, said, "We couldn't reach the slot. given suspended senten.

(Story on Page 5)

FREE WRESTLING ON ROCKDALE PARKING LOT

TOMORROW NITE --- 7.15 P.M.

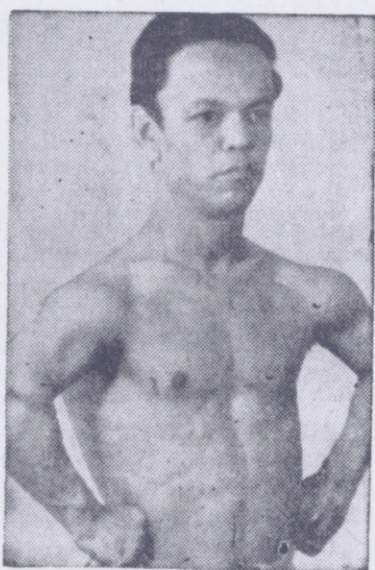
SENSATIONAL ACTION SHOW

**FAMOUS
WRESTLING MIDGETS
CHAMPION
SONNY BOY CASSIDY**

PROVIDENCE, R. I.

VS.

**VINCENT GARIBALDI
NEW YORK**



**LOTS OF FUN
FOR YOUNG 'N OLD!**

**C'mon Down 'n Cheer
Your Favorite To Victory!**

**ROCKDALE...YOUR
FAMILY BARGAIN STORE!**

ROCKDALE

CORNER OF WHITNEY AND WATER STS., LEOMINSTER

1961

Fitchburg

Vol. CXXIII

FITCHBURG, MONDAY, JUNE 25

Little Ones Conduct Big Parley

Little People gathered in Fitchburg yesterday.

A group of 17 persons, small in stature and members of the New England Chapter of the Little People of America, Inc., were the guests of Miss Lena M. Richard, 216 St. Joseph avenue, at an outing yesterday afternoon at her home.

Miss Richard is secretary to the district chairman of this area.

District chairman, Miss Marjorie Bourassa, 74 Walnut street, Manchester, N. H., presided at a business meeting.

The problems "Little People" have to cope with were discussed by the group as well as ways to attract other small people to their organization.

Little folks from Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts attended the outdoor program.

"Some small people as some bigger people live apart and resist social contacts," Miss Bourassa pointed out.

"It is often difficult for some of us to meet other little people for the first time," she said. "But regardless of this feeling, the same problems are present with each one of us and meeting others with those problems opens a new world of understanding, friendship and enjoyment."

She explained that the purpose of the organization of The Little People of America, Inc., is to provide fellowship, interchange of ideas, solutions to the unique problems of a little person and moral support.

Represented in the group attending yesterday's social were housewives, shoe workers, office clerks, bookkeepers, plastic workers, garage owners, draftsman and mechanics.

Those present were Miss Josette Bernard of Auburn, Me., Mr. and Mrs. John Bourassa of Manchester, N. H.,

OUTING, Page 12



LITTLE PEOPLE — Among those attending a local get-together for members of the New England Chapter of the Little People of America Inc. were, left to right, Miss Josette Bernard of Auburn, Me., Miss Marjorie Bourassa, Manchester, N. H., Ernest Niles, Jr. of Fitchburg, David Marden of North Chichester, N.H., Miss Lena Richards, also of Fitchburg. The blonde youngster standing in front is George Rollins, Jr. of Roxbury. Ernest and George are known as "Little Littles."

1962



1961 Lotus Supper Club Washington D. C.
 L to R: Tena Anderson, Bob Spector, Jan Herrick, Jimmy Liles, Unk, Gus Couretas, Lena Richard,
 Marjorie Boarassa, Marcella Brower, Bob Brower, Jacob Wagner, Bob Hinkson, Unk, Dan Turner
 Frances Conville

LENA and the LITTLE PEOPLE



LITTLE woman — big smile. Lena M. Richard, 43, but under four feet tall, takes life in stride.

By Ruth E. Rose

LITTLE, lively and likeable — that's Fitchburg's 43-year-old Lena M. Richard, who stands only 3 feet 11 inches tall and is a member of a "growing" organization, Little People of America Inc.

Born in Portsmouth, N.H., Lena is one of the 11 children of Thaddy E. and the late Agnes Richard. She now lives with her father and a younger sister, Irene, at 216 St. Joseph Ave.

"My seven sisters and three brothers — all living and all but one mar-

ried — are all average height or more. I was the seventh child," she said with a smile, "and I guess seven was an unlucky number."

Lena's pleasing personality and perseverance have helped her to overcome any "unlucky" start she may have had. Her determination to cope with living in a big world, her sometimes unhappy school days, her difficulty later in finding employment and the new happiness that tuning in at random to a television program two years ago gave her, highlight her interesting story.

"I was so small that I did not enter school until I was seven and a half years old," she said. "At eight, when I was confirmed at St. Joseph's Church, I wore a toddler's dress, size 2."

"It was just natural, I guess, for the normal-sized children in school to tease me, but many times I came home crying because of their remarks. Those were the moments when my mother showed her wisdom by not babying me or outwardly sympathizing with me too much. Consequently, I slowly learned to accept the seemingly unkind things the children sometimes said. I completed

the eighth grade at St. Joseph's School but did not feel I wanted to continue through high school."

BABY-SITTING and housework seemed to be the only jobs available for Lena after she left school, because of her size and age. She managed housework without too much difficulty with the help of a stool to reach the sink or stove top.

Her diminutive size was often an asset when baby-sitting. "If it was necessary to remain all night with the children, I was small enough to fit into a child's crib, eliminating a sleeping problem."

The petite Lena, immaculately groomed from her prettily curled brown hair to her tiny, trim-fitting shoes, told enthusiastically of her first full-time job with the Doehla Greeting Card Co.

"The owner, Harry Doehla, is handicapped and consequently understood my problem. 'Size does not matter,' he said, 'as long as you can use your hands.' I worked for the Doehla Company for 10 years until the business was moved to Nashua, N.H."

Continued on Next Page

Fitchburg's Lena M. Richard and other 'shorties' have joined hands to solve common problems. Their motto: 'Think Big!'



NEW OUTLOOK and brighter social life have come to little people since formation of nation-wide Little People of America Inc., two years ago. Some of 30 New England members were at this typical

recent gathering at home of Lena M. Richard (second from right). George Rollins, at left in first row, and Ernest Niles, third from left in first row, are both "Little Littles."

LITTLE PEOPLE

Continued from Preceding Page

Lena is now happily employed at Foster Grant's in Leominster, where she is an assembler and inspector of sunglasses. "I enjoy the work and the friendliness of my co-workers. Occasionally someone has a little fun by picking me up and sitting me on top of a soda-vending machine, but someone else always comes along and lifts me down," she chuckled.

Even severe snowstorms in winter, which once made getting to work difficult, are no longer a source of concern for Lena since the company made a special ruling: "When the no-school whistle blows, there's no classes for children and no work for Lena."

ONE OF THE most thrilling moments in Lena's life came unexpectedly two years ago when she tuned in to the television program "This Is Your Life." The guest star was Billy Barty, well-known TV and movie actor who, himself, is only 3 feet 10 inches tall and is one of America's "little people."

Lena heard him tell of the work he had been doing among the little people on the West Coast since 1953. Her interest grew as he announced that in November of that year (1960), a national convention would be held in Las Vegas for little

people from all over the United States. He urged all who could to attend.

"I was so excited!" exclaimed Lena, her eyes sparkling. "I immediately wrote Billy Barty's secretary for an application and began making plans for the trip. I needed \$300 for transportation, \$100 of which was collected among my co-workers at Foster Grant's. I was soon winging my way to Las Vegas."

She told of her happiness in meeting 150 little people who came from all parts of the country to attend the convention. A constitution was adopted, the United States was divided into 14 districts — each with its own chairman — and groundwork was laid for incorporation as a non-profit organization, Little People of America Inc. Billy Barty became the group's first president.

Lena was elected secretary to Marjorie Bourassa of 74 Walnut St., Manchester, N.H., chairman of District 1, which is made up of the New England States.

"Marjorie and I have been doing our best for two years to make contacts with little people in our area so that they may join our group. We have about 30 in our district now and hope many others will contact us. One must be under 4 feet 9 inches to join."

The purpose of Little People of America, according to Lena, is to provide fellowship, exchange ideas, help each other to solve common problems, create and stimulate new interests and give moral support to each other. Their motto? "Think Big."

WHAT ARE some of the problems common to little people? "To find places where we can have clothes made that really fit and buy small shoes, to find work and to cope with living in a world designed for normal-sized people," said Lena.

She confided that she wears a child's dress, size 10, and children's shoes, size 2. Stretch gloves solve the glove problem.

Self-service stores with a scarcity of clerks to help reach needed items and telephone booths with phones too high to use are added grievances. "A smile generally brings assistance in dialing a number, if anyone is near," Lena explained.

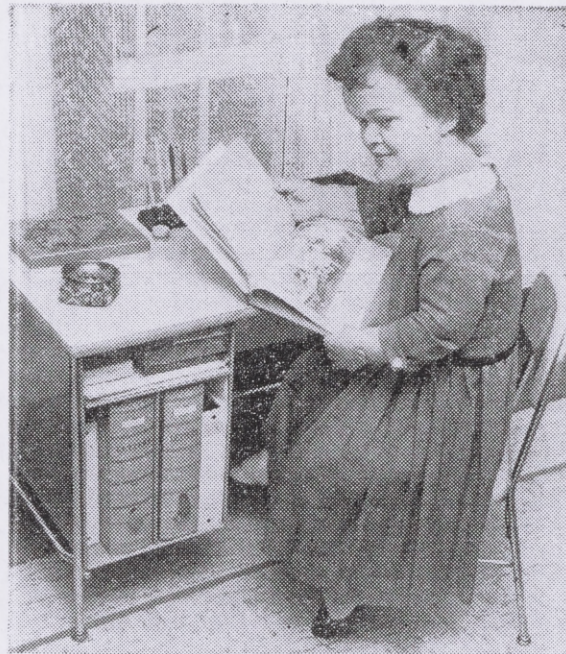
What kind of jobs do some of Lena's friends hold? "They're secretaries, bookkeepers, barbers, salesmen, repairmen, artists, draftsmen, and, of course, housewives," she said. "LPA is bringing many little people together and more and more marriages are resulting."

"Dwarf and midget children are called 'Little Littles.'"

Do any of the little people drive cars? Lena stated that many of them do drive, in cars with special pedals. "Speaking of cars reminds me," she said, "of two of our New England Little People, twin brothers, E. Romeo and Edmond Poirier. They run the Midget Twin Service Station at 289 Broadway in Taunton."

LAST JUNE Lena was hostess to 17 LPA members from New England. They came by bus, train and car, to enjoy a party and buffet in the spacious back yard of Lena's attractive home. Chief topic of conversation was the fourth annual National Convention to be held in Asheville, N.C., for four days beginning Oct. 29. Asheville is the home of Dan Turner, LPA president.

"I am counting the days until the convention," said Lena enthusiastically. "Besides the election of officers and a board of directors' meeting, there'll be a fashion show, talent show, bowling



SECRETARY of New England district of Little People of America Inc., Lena handles affairs of "self-help" group from own scaled-down desk.

tournament, cook-out, square dancing, the crowning of Mr. and Mrs. Lilliput and announcement of the convention king and queen."

Lena, who entertained publicly for 10 years with various dances, including the jitterbug, the cha-cha, the Mexican hat dance and the hula, plans to participate in the talent show although she confessed, "I'm really too old for that now."

She added that she found it difficult to dance with little men at the convention, because she was accustomed to dancing with big men.

Besides dancing, Lena's other interests have included roller skating, figure skating on ice, sewing, cooking

(not snacks but big meals— spaghetti and meat balls and pot roast dinners). She showed us the black and white stool she uses at home to reach the sink and stove.

Lena, generally happy and smiling, grew serious as she said, "The thing that I dislike the most is to have people on the street or in a public place stare and call me a dwarf or midget. I guess they just don't think. I try to think big, so I won't feel self-conscious."

Like many of the Little People, Lena has proved her ability to think big. She has learned to live in two worlds — a small world and a big world — and daily finds happiness in both.



EVER-PRESENT stool helps Lena in big job of keeping big home. She loves cooking, enjoys preparing hearty meals for father and sister.

NEXT WEEK

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Lillian Pike Cain writes about an interesting — and novel — program in which 36 carefully selected high school seniors in Massachusetts and New Hampshire are currently studying the Mandarin Chinese language.

FEATURE PARADE

THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN

SECTION TWO

THURS., NOV. 1, 1962



CONGRATULATIONS WERE IN ORDER all the way around in Asheville Wednesday at Grove Park Inn during the fourth annual convention of the Little People of America Inc. Shaking hands and sharing a secret were Danny Turner of Asheville, outgoing president, and his successor, Bob Brower of Phoenix,

Ariz., third and fourth from left. What the others didn't know was that the night would bring the crowning of Bill and Marie Albaugh of Camden, N.J., at left, as Mr. and Mrs. Lilliput, while Dale Paullin of Marshalltown, Iowa, and Miss Nancy Vick of Chicago would be crowned as king and queen of LPA.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Little People Want The Seats Put Back Into Telephone Booths

By PETE GILPIN
Citizen Staff Writer

Memo to American Tel & Tel:
Better install seats in your
New York City phone booths at
once.

A high priority request is being
prepared here by the Little Peo-
ple of America and it's under-
standable. Many of the LPAs
need those seats to climb upon

so they can reach the coin slot.
What should make the request
of more interest to American Tel
and Tel is that it will be delivered
in the name of LPA by George
Baehm III, who in addition to
being a full-fledged member of
the Little People just happens
also to be an American Tel and
Tel shareholder.

The phone booth was just one

topic on a busy Wednesday agen-
da at the LPA's fourth annual
convention in Grove Park Inn
here.

The group elected new officers,
a king and queen and Mr. and
Mrs. Lilliput.

They installed their new lead-
ers at a Wednesday night ban-
quet and then held an inaugural
ball. It should be noted here that,

although the gyrations of the
Twist may seem awkward for
some of normal height, the
LPA's take to the step (?) with
astounding ease.

Bob Brower, Phoenix, Ariz., ex-
ecutive of a supermarket chain,
was elected president of the group
succeeding Danny Turner of
Asheville.

Other new officers are William
Albaugh of Camden, N.J., vice
president, and Miss Janet Herrick
of Jamestown, N.Y., vice presi-
dent. James C. Liles of Asheville
was re-elected treasurer.

The delegates voted to hold their
1963 convention next July at Des
Moines, Iowa.

Bill and Marie Albaugh of
Camden, N.J., were named Mr.
and Mrs. Lilliput and Nancy Vick
of Chicago and Dale Paullin of
Marshalltown, Iowa, began their
reign as Queen and King of LPA.

During the afternoon, the group
toured Biltmore Estate.

And after the inaugural ball,
their own politicking out of the
way, LPA members prepared for
a luncheon address Thursday by
Gov. Terry Sanford, the final
event in a gathering that will
take convention-hardened Ashe-



—Citizen Photo—Glenn

A KING-SIZED STOGIE was just the ticket for Robert Kanter of San Diego, Calif., at the Little People of America's convention in Grove Park Inn Monday. Helpfully proffering a light was Miss Mary Taylor of Westmont, N. J., as Bob Brower of Phoenix, Ariz., looked on. The five-day gathering continues through Thursday with a luncheon address by Gov. Sanford that day.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Their Status Is Looking Up

By PETE (Tall Man) GILPIN
Citizen Staff Writer

An excess of height, say five-foot 11 or so, can sure make a guy feel insecure.

If you don't believe it, trot out to Grove Park Inn where the Little People of America have moved in lock, stock and footstools for their fourth annual convention.

See if you don't look twice the first time you watch Robert Kanter of San Diego, Calif., light up a cigar. At first glance you're tempted to snatch the stogie from him and deliver a first class lecture on being too young to smoke.

Don't. Kanter loves cigars, has smoked them for years.

Or to sympathize with perky Phyllis Polston of Wixom, Mich., a three-foot-two, almost the

shortest delegate and pondering possible unemployment problems.

Seems she babysits with her cousins and the youngest, a boy 1½, is now almost too much for her. Oh, she can take care of most of his needs, but he's reached the stage where he wants to be picked up by Phyllis and he's become quite an armful.

A half-inch shorter than Phyllis and the littlest LPA of those assembled here is Miss Mary Danville of Holbrook, Mass. Sunk low in an easy chair, fellow members literally towered over her.

"Think Big" is the motto of this unique organization, limited to 60 inches and below, and it's obvious that they follow it to the letter.

For instance, there's Lee Kitchens from traditionally-tall Texas who, as an electronic engineer in Dallas supervises the

work of some 30 subordinates, all of normal height.

Or Francis Killeen of Granite Quarry, N. C., who owns and operates one rest home and administers four others. Miss Francis Carney of Nashville, Tenn., works for the State Rehabilitation Service and directs the activities of 17 employees.

That they rise to the occasion wasn't questioned, but it also became quite obvious that they were perfectly capable of bringing a normal-sized person down to their size. One such person found himself alternately squatting or kneeling in carrying on conversations. What's more the conversation was so engrossing, he never even noticed his own peculiar position until it was pointed out to him.

Monday's activities primarily revolved around a board of directors meeting with a fashion show in the evening followed by a talent review.

The five-day gathering is the group's first trip east for a national meeting. Prior conventions were at Reno and Las Vegas where it was reported the hosts thoughtfully provided small stools in front of each slot machine.

Judging from the adaptability of the Little People, it certainly wasn't necessary. But that's the purpose of the organization, to show the small of stature they aren't the only ones in the world with such a problem, according to executive secretary James C. Liles of Asheville.

THE ASHEVILLE TIMES

Asheville, N. C.

Tuesday, October 30, 1962

Section Two



MRS. ALBAUGH

MRS. RAABE

MRS. BROWER

Old Friends

Old friendships are being renewed by members of Little People of America as they hold their fourth annual convention this week in Grove Park Inn. Looking very glad to see each other are Mrs. Bill Albaugh of Camden, N. J., wife of the publicity chairman for the organization; Mrs. Marie Raabe of Broomall, Pa.; and Mrs. Bob Brower of Phoenix, Ariz., wife of the vice president of Little People. The ladies at the convention were entertained at a fashion show last night. Activities for today include bowling at Star Lanes Bowling Center this afternoon and a grand cook-out tonight, weather permitting.

1962

Love Scales Heights

'Little People' Wed In Fitchburg Rites

FITCHBURG — The principals stood little taller than a yardstick, but their wedding day reached the heights of the tallest mountain.

At a ceremony yesterday afternoon in St. Joseph's Church, Miss Lena M. Richard, who is three feet, eleven inches tall, became the bride of Dana W. Guild, who is eight inches taller than his bride.

Lena, who is the daughter of Thaddy E. Richard of 216 St. Joseph Ave., was given in marriage by her father. Mr. Richard is average height as are Lena's brothers and sisters

(the family numbers 11). Dana is the son of Mrs. Gladys Guild of Hopkinton.

Attendants

Another little couple, Madeline Young of Dover, N.H., and Norman Ouellette of Fall River, were the attendants.

Both couples met in the organization known as Little People of America of which they are members. Ernest Niles Jr., 11, who is 42 inches tall and a member of the Little People's organization was ring bearer.

The taller nephews, Roland Richard of Leominster and George Richard of Fitchburg, ushered.

The gowns of the bride and her maid of honor were made by Mrs. Emil Blanchard of Fitchburg. The bride's gown was a child's size 10. Her slippers were size two.

The bridal gown was of white Swiss imported embroidered tulle over white satin appliqued with satin flowers. It was fashioned with a fitted bodice, circular neckline, long lily point sleeves and a full-length skirt. Her bouffant tulle veil was caught to a crown of tulle made with a detachable face veil. She carried white roses and baby's breath in a cascade bouquet.

The maid of honor wore a similar gown of sky blue tulle

over blue satin but fashioned with short sleeves. She wore a tulip crown of blue tulle with a detachable veil and carried pink carnations and baby's breath.

A reception in Eagles Hall followed the ceremony. After a

wedding trip the couple will live in Framingham where Dana is a compositor at Dennison Mfg. Co. His bride was an inspector at Foster Grant Co., Leominster, for nine years.

A small group of Little People members were among the wedding guests. Others attending were families of the

Turn to FITCHBURG Page 2



PRINCIPALS IN WEDDING OF "LITTLE PEOPLE" AT FITCHBURG

From left, Madeline Young, attendant; Mrs. Dana W. Guild (Lena M. Richard), bride; Rev. Roland M. Nadeau, who officiated; Dana W. Guild, bridegroom; Norman Ouellette, attendant; and Ernest Niles Jr., ringbearer

Continued from Page One

couple, friends and co-workers from Leominster and Framingham.

The couple has furnished a four-room apartment in a housing project in Framingham with ordinary size furniture. The bride took her footstool from home to simplify housework.

Lena has been a member of the Little People of America since 1960 and Dana joined the group a year ago. They will be attendants at the wedding of the maid of honor and best man in July.



BRIDAL PARTY OF MR. AND MRS. DANA GUILD
After Exchange Of Vows At St. Joseph's

Wedding

(Continued from Page One)

ried a cascade bouquet of white roses and baby's breath. Miss Young wore a full length gown of white embroidered tulle over blue satin with a scoop neckline, short sleeves and a bell skirt. Her blue tulip crown was trimmed with seed pearls and blue pearl drops and had a circular face veil. She carried a colonial bouquet of pink carnations, white pompons and baby's breath. Her gown was also made by Mrs. Blanchard.

The bridegroom is the son of Mrs. Gladys Guild of 7A St. Hopkinton. The bride is also the daughter of the late Mrs. Agnes Richard.

A reception followed at the Eagles Hall after which the newlyweds left for a honeymoon to be spent in New York and New Jersey. They will make their home in Framingham, where the bridegroom is employed at the Dennison Co. as a compositor.

The bride was employed at Foster Grant Co., Leominster for nine years before her marriage. They will make their home in a four-room apartment in a Framingham housing project.

The couple met through the Little People of America organization in which the bride has been active since 1960. Mr. Guild joined a year ago.

In July Mr. and Mrs. Guild will attend Miss Young and Mr. Ouellette at their wedding to be held in Dover, N. H.

Twelve members of the Little People of America were among those attending Little Lena's wedding and reception.

1964

Hundreds View Double-Ring Ceremony—

'Little Lena' Gets Married

A "little couple" engaged in the city's "biggest" event Sunday afternoon.

The couple exchanged marriage vows in a double ring ceremony in St. Joseph's Church at 2 o'clock. The bride stood 3 feet, 11 inches and her bridegroom eight inches taller.

There was nothing little about the crowd of friends and relatives which filled the church, however. Several hundred were seated and many

stood in the aisles while hundreds more waited outside to watch the radiant Lena M. Richard and her new husband Dana W. Guild of Hopkinton leave the church for their reception at the Eagles Hall.

The tiny bride came down the aisle of the church on the arm of her father, Thaddy E. Richard, 216 St. Joseph's Avenue. She was preceded by her maid-of-honor, Miss Madeline Young of Dover, N. H., who is no taller than she.

At the altar they joined the bridegroom and his best man Norman Ouellette of Fall River. The wedding principals and their attendants including Ernest Niles, Jr., who served as ring bearer, are all members of the Little People of America.

The bride's taller nephews, Roland Richard of Leominster and George Richard served as ushers. Rev. Roland Nadeau officiated at the service.

The bridal gown, a child's

size 10, was designed and made by Mrs. Emil Blanchard. It was of Swiss imported embroidered tulle with satin flowered appliques over satin and was fashioned with a fitted bodice, circlet neckline, lilypoint sleeves, and a full length bell skirt. With it she wore a bouffant shoulder length veil held in place by a handmade crown of tulle trimmed with sequins and a detachable face veil. She carried

WEDDING, Page 17



BEFORE THE WEDDING
Little Lena And Little Madeline



CHILD OF MARY CEREMONY
Bride Assisted By Maid-Of-Honor



NEWLYWEDS LEAVE CHURCH
Mr. And Mrs. Dana W. Guild



LEAVE FOR RECEPTION
En Route To Eagles Hall

**Mrs. Dana Guild
Resident 3 Years**

**Services Wednesday
Morning in Fitchburg**

FRAMINGHAM — Mrs. Lena (Richard) Guild, 47, of 47 Frederick St., wife of Dana Guild, died Sunday in the Shattuck Hospital, Jamaica Plain.

She was born in Portsmouth, N.H., the daughter of Thaddee and Agnes (LeBlanc) Richard and had lived much of her lifetime in Fitchburg, coming to Framingham three years ago. She was active in the Little People of America organization.

Besides her husband and father, she leaves three brothers, Edward Richard of Shediac, N.B., Canada, Lionel and Reginald Richard of Fitchburg; seven sisters, Miss Irene Richard, Mrs. Francis Richard, Mrs. Edward Girouard of Titchburg, Mrs. John Cormier and Mrs. Robert LeBlanc of Moncton, N.B., Mrs. Eric Robichaud of Westminster, and Mrs. Edgar Robichaud of San Diego, Calif., and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be held from the Aubuchon Funeral Home, Fitchburg, Wednesday morning, with details incomplete. Visiting hours will be Tuesday afternoon and evening from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.

1967

